NEVADA...

A CLANDESTINE SERIES OF TESTS. A CRYPTIC CONGLOMERATE. A DRY HEAT.

MAYBE THEY NEED A NEW *CHECK-OUT* GIRL AT THE *PIGGLY WIGGLY*... I HEAR THEY GET *BENEFITS.*

YOU'RE *NOT* GOING TO LOSE YOUR JOB. STOP BEING *MELODRAMATIC.*

EASY FOR *YOU* TO SAY, *ZOE.* AS AN *EXPEDITER,* YOU'VE GOT *SECURITY* AT *LANDAU, LUCKMAN AND LAKE.*

I'M JUST A *BIOPHYSICIST* WITH *ORDNANCE BIAS*... ANYTHING GOES *WRONG,* THEY'LL HAVE ME SWABBING *STREP CULTURES* BY MORNING --

IF THERE'S *ONE* THING YOU NEED TO LEARN ABOUT *THIS OPERATIVE*... IT'S THAT HE'S *UN-PREDICTABLE*... BUT *RELIABLE*...

USUALLY... ON *AVERAGE.*

"ON AVERAGE"!? THAT MANIAC JUST ABSCONDED WITH A *FUSION*-DRIVEN, *BETA-TESTED* CYBERNETIC AUGMENTATION HARNESS WITH *LIVE AMMUNITION* --

-- *INCLUDING* AN' *"L"* CLASS *THERMONUCLEAR* DEVICE, AND FLEW RIGHT TOWARDS *L.A.!* HE'S ONLY RESPONSIBLE *"ON AVERAGE?!"*

I MUST BE *CURSED*... UTTERLY *CURSED*... AND WORSE, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT'S ALL FOR!

WHY DID OVERBOSS *DIXON* ORDER THIS *BATTLE SUIT?* WHAT *PROGRAM* ARE WE WORKING --

WOOSH

CALM DOWN, *SARAH*... HE'S *BACK.* SEE, I TOLD YOU. *RELIABLE.*

THANK GOD... THOUGH I NOTICE YOU *DIDN'T* ANSWER MY QUESTION.

DIDN'T I?

FSSH

OH... MY... GOD...

Stan Lee Presents

"DEAD RECKONING" minus TWO MONTHS & COUNTING

SMELLS LIKE PROLOGUE

Joe Kelly Mack Daddy Walter McDaniel Daddy of the Mack Livesay Funk Master
Matt Hicks Down with O.P.P Richard Starkings & Comicraft Gettin' Jiggy wit it
Matt Idelson Bad MamaJama Bob Harras Be Standin Up

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...

"HE'S OFF THE HOOK"... "HE'S BUTTA —". NO...

"DEADPOOL'S DA BUTTEST." WORD.

HOT PANTS

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SO... PIGGLY WIGGLY OFFERS *BENEFITS?*

MEANWHILE... IN A HIGHLY RESTRICTED AREA OF THE AFOREMENTIONED LANDAU, LUCKMAN, AND LAKE...

I TAKE IT THEY HAVE BEEN *ADEQUATELY* BRIEFED, *NOAH?*

OF COURSE, *OVERBOSS DIXON.* ASSUMING YOU WOULD CONSIDER *FIFTY* SIMULATIONS PER UNIT *"ADEQUATE"*...

ALL THAT'S LEFT...

"...IS YOUR FINAL ORDER. THE BLACKOUT IS READY."

PERFECT. SIMPLY... PERFECT.

DO YOU REALIZE THAT IF EARTH'S *GOVERNMENTS* WERE EVEN *ONE QUARTER* THIS ORGANIZED... THEY'D HAVE ACHIEVED PEACE ON THEIR OWN *CENTURIES* AGO?

INDEED, SIR... IT'S A PITY THAT THEY AREN'T... *NONE* OF THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY.

SHALL I WIRE A *DOWN-LOAD* TO *MONTY* AND LOCK DOWN SITE PRIORITIES —?

NO... WE'RE GOING ON HIS *ORIGINAL PREDICTIONS.* OUR BELOVED *PSYCHIC* HASN'T WEATHERED *RECOVERY* AS WELL AS I'D HOPED —

RECOVERY? FROM WHAT?

A LEVEL EIGHT MIND-WIPE.

WHAT?!

DIXON... YOU —

-- YOU CAN'T — HE'S ONE OF *US* --

LAST ISH! -- MATTWIPE

NOW.
THIS RAGHT
HAVE TO FIX
I
THIS.
HAVE TO FIX
I
TALKING.
NO

WHY, WILSON?! WHY?!
CHALLENGE MONTH
YOU AND THE UPCOMING
PERFECTLY CALIBRATED TO
THAT BATTLE ARMOR WAS
FORECASTED!

HEY, CULLODEN...
THERE'S NO NEED
TO GET
UNPROFESSIONAL

SHUT UP!
UP! JUST
SHUT

HI.
DON'T GET
SARAH.
UP.

OKAY.
YOU'RE STRESSED.
I CAN SENSE THAT...
MAYBE I COULD HELP
BY RUNNING YOU
THROUGH SOME
HEAVY BREATHING
EXERCISES...

I DON'T SEE
THE MALFUNCTION
HERE... YOU DIDN'T
REALLY EXPECT ME TO
SAVE THE UNIVERSE IN
SOME DAMSEL-NULT-
ROBINSON-LOOKING
TIN CAN!

HAMSTRATE --?
DID YOU SEE THE PANT
HOOTCHIE TO SCORE...
I'VE GOT
FANS TO IMPRESS...

DEADPOOL

COSTA!
ALL

FOR IT.
THE STOMACH
DON'T HAVE
YOU

WE WILL NOT DISCUSS
THIS AGAIN, NOAH. DO
YOUR JOB. FOLLOW
MY ORDERS...

AND THANK
THE DEITY OF
YOUR CHOICE --
THAT YOU DON'T HAVE
TO SHOULDER THE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR AN ENTIRE
WORLD...

COSTA!
OUT AT ALL
MUST BE CARRIED
DIRECTIVE
WITHDRAW
THE

DON'T YOU DARE
LOOK DOWN YOUR
NOSE AT ME AND
JUDGE, NOAH -- YOU
KNOW WHAT'S AT
STAKE!

I WOULDN'T GO SO FAR AS TO SAY "*PERFECTLY* CALIBRATED..." THE BOYS FOUND THE FLIGHT A TAD *CRAMPED*, IF YOU GET MY DRIFT...

CAN YOU DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE *INSEAM?*

JUST *ONCE*, WOULD IT HAVE KILLED YOU *NOT* TO ACT LIKE A *THIRD GRADER* ON *STEROIDS?!?*

DO YOU *UNDERSTAND* WHAT YOU'VE DONE, YOU *SELF-CENTERED JUVENILE GOON?!*

-SIGH- CULLODEN, BEFORE YOUR *LIPS* SAY SOMETHING YOUR *BEHIND* CAN'T *BACK UP*, TAKE A *CHILL PILL* AND WATCH CLOSELY —

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? *GET AWAY* FROM THAT!

ACTIVATING: BATTLE ROVER PROTOTYPE DP-001 FIELD TEST...

SAFETY OFF.

WANT TO PLAY A *GAME*? SURE, JOSHUA... HOW 'BOUT *THERMO-NUCLEAR WAR...*

OR BETTER YET, *HIDE THE HARD DRIVE* WITH SARAH JESSICA PARKER — ROWRR —

ALERT! ALERT!
COURSE IS LIVE!
COURSE IS LIVE!

RUN!

MOTHER OF MERCY!

VRRMMM

DEADPOOL! ARE YOU *INSANE?!* THIS FIELD TEST IS FOR THE *BATTLE SUIT ONLY!* YOU TOOK OFF THE *SAFETIES!* YOU'LL BE *KILLED!*

BOY, SURE CAN'T GET ONE PAST YOU, *SWEET-CHEEKS...*

MUST BE THAT *COKE-BOTTLE PRESCRIPTION* THEY CARVED INTO THOSE *GOGGLES.*

KIDS, FOR GOD'S SAKE... *DON'T* TRY THIS AT *HOME.*

AS THE CROWD GASPS IN UNISON, OUR GARRULOUS GUNSEL LEAPS HEADLONG INTO THE PITCH 'N PUTT COURSE OF DEATH WITH A GRIN AND A WINK --

— AND THEY WONDER, "HAS HE GONE MAD?" "DOES HE HAVE A DEATHWISH?"

"DID HE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF THE DOG AND LEAVE WATER FOR THE IRON?"

ONLY OUR HERO KNOWS THE TRUTH...ONLY HE HAS STARED INTO THE MOUTH OF DARKNESS AND FOUND THE TOOTH DECAY OF LOGIC FESTERING THEREIN!

VREEEEET

CHOOM

BUT WILL HE TELL? WILL HIS SNAPPY PATTER PROVIDE A WINDOW INTO HIS SOUL --?

CHOOM

BRAKKATTA BRAKKATTA

-- OR WILL HE GO ON A RIFF ABOUT THE UPCOMING MENUDO REUNION? HIS LOVE OF THE DAILY SHOW? HIS VEXATION THAT PROP COMEDIAN GALLAGHER HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO BREED?

HE... HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO --

NO... HE SHOULDN'T...

BUT HE IS...

I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM... I WAS PACKING GROCERIES...

HE SURPRISES THEM ALL BY SAYING NOTHING...

FOR TO SPEAK NOW WOULD REVEAL HIS DEEP SECRET... THE SEAT OF HIS INVULNERABILITY...

HE HAS NO FEAR BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME... HE HAS A NOBLE PURPOSE.

HRRRM

THE GUY SLUGS IT OUT ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS... AND BEST PART OF IT ALL —

PKOWW !!

-- HE ALREADY KNOWS HOW IT'S GOING TO END.

HE RUBS ELBOWS WITH A COSMIC MESSIAH...

GOAL

HE HERALDS A NEW AGE OF PROSPERITY ON EARTH...

HE'S LOVED BY MILLIONS FOR GENERATIONS. IN OTHER WORDS...

POOM

GOAL

BOOM

...DEADPOOL RULES!

ZOE, ZOE, ZOE... YOU *FREAKY* GOGGLE-LICIOUS *EXPEDITER* YOU...

IN ALL OF THE *COUNTLESS* VISIONS MONTY'S HAD OF *MY* DOING MY *MITHRAS SCHTICK* AND *HERALDING* THE *MESSIAH*...

...DID HE EVER *ONCE* MENTION THAT I'D BE *SPORTING* A BIG CLUNKY *BATTLE SUIT?*

??

NO... I GUESS HE NEVER *DID*. WE JUST THOUGHT IT...A *PRECAUTION*... YOU *MIGHT* NEED --

I *DIDN'T*.

I *DON'T*.

CONVINCED?

YES.

SPLENDID.

SO, WHAT SAY WE SLIP INTO SOMETHING MORE *COMFORTABLE*, SNAP OPEN A FEW *TALL BOYS*...

...AND YOU CAN TELL ME — *EXACTLY* — IN SIMPLE *THIRD GRADER* TERMS, WHAT IT IS *YOU* AND THE *U&L BOYS* HAVE BEEN *PREPPING* ME FOR.

TELL ME *HOW* I'LL BE A *HERO*.

...

OKAY. YOU'RE ON.

"DIXON, SIR... I'D LIKE TO LODGE A FORMAL PROTEST —" NO... "DIXON... I KNOW THAT WE'RE NOT... FRIENDS PER SE —" NO...

"DIXON... MAN, YOU ARE SERIOUSLY SCREWED UP IN THE HEAD." YEAH, THAT'S THE WAY TO SMOOTH-TALK YOUR MENTOR.

ACCESS: FLESHWERKS

FEEL THAT QUEASY SENSATION IN YOUR GUT, NOAH? THAT'S YOUR LIFE STARTING A SLOW SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL.

THIS IS NOT RIGHT... NOT RIGHT AT ALL.

TRUE, MONTY SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO MONTE CARLO WITH DEADPOOL... NOT THAT HE HAD MUCH OF A CHOICE, BUT STILL...

A MINDWIPE? ASIDE FROM THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF SUCH A PROCEDURE... THE SHEER... VIOLATION OF IT IS INEXCUSABLE!

I WOULD FOLLOW DIXON INTO HELL FOR A HAMBURGER IF HE ASKED ME TO... BUT...

MONTY'S ONE OF US... PART OF THE TEAM... THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

SO WHAT DO YOU DO, YES-MAN? YOU'VE NEVER DEFIED A DIRECT ORDER IN YOUR LIFE. TODAY, ON THE EVE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING OF YOUR CAREER... NOW YOU'RE GOING TO GROW A SPINE..?

...

A CONSCIENCE CAN BE REALLY INCONVENIENT AT TIMES.

CENTRAL, SECURE LINE, PLEASE. CULLODEN, DIRECT LINK...

ACCESSING...

NOAH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Um... DIXON, I'M --

CULLODEN HERE... HELLO? NOAH? NOAH, ARE YOU CHECKING UP ON ME?! YOU TELL DIXON --

END TRANSMISSION.

IF YOU'RE QUITE THROUGH WITH YOUR SOCIAL CALL... THE BLACK OUT TROOPS ARE IN POSITION.

WE HAVE A WORLD TO BLIND.

BRING THEM UP ON SCREEN...

ALL OF THEM, NOAH...

PLEASE...

YES SIR.

DO YOU *FEEL* IT, NOAH... THAT TENSION IN YOUR *GUT?* THAT'S ALMOST A *DECADE'S* WORTH OF *GESTATION* CHURNING ABOUT...

ALL THE *LATE NIGHTS*... THE SURREPTITIOUS *MEETINGS*... THE *COUNTLESS* MAN-HOURS SPENT IN PREPARATION...

...THEY'RE *FINALLY* TAKING SHAPE. THE *FRUITS* OF OUR LABOR BEING *BORN* BEFORE OUR EYES.

WHEN THE BLACK OUT TROOPS ARE *FINISHED*...NO ONE ON *EARTH* WILL KNOW THAT THE MESSIAH IS COMING...

IT WILL BE *INVISIBLE* TO ALL WHO MIGHT INTERFERE.

OUR LITTLE *CABAL* WILL TRULY BE ON OUR *OWN.*

I DO NOT TAKE *PRIDE* IN *MANY* THINGS I'VE DONE IN MY LIFE, NOAH...

...BUT TODAY... I KNOW IT HAS ALL BEEN *WORTH* IT. I FEEL IT WITH EVERY *FIBER* OF MY *HEART.*

YES SIR...IT IS...A *SPECIAL* DAY.

KEEP ME *APPRISED* OF THEIR PROGRESS, NOAH... I'M *COUNTING* ON YOU...

YOU HAVE *ALWAYS* BEEN... MY MOST *TRUSTED AIDE.*

...

THANK YOU, SIR... WHAT ARE *YOU* GOING TO DO?

I'M GOING TO ENSURE THAT MANIAC *DEADPOOL* DOES NOTHING TO *DESTROY* OUR *CREATION*...

I'M GOING TO CONTACT THE *SECOND STRING* FACE-TO-*FACE.*

NEVADA.

DIST. MI. LIFESIGNS IN PERIMETER: 2

HRONNK HROONK ARK HRONNNK

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU *ILL?*

IT'S MY *SAND GUY* IMPRESSION... YOU KNOW... FROM *STAR WARS?*

I DON'T *LIKE* SCIENCE FICTION FILMS... ALL *FICTION*, NO *SCIENCE.*

YOU REALLY NEED TO *UNCLENCH*, ZOE... REALLY.

ARE YOU *FINISHED?* COME HERE SO I CAN *ACTIVATE* THIS —

KRAKKLE

HEY, I HAD ONE OF THESE! THE *MAGIC 8 BALL* IS ALWAYS RIGHT!

JUST *SHAKE* HER UP LIKE A *MELON* ON *BAYWATCH* AND ASK A QUESTION!

WILL I *BREAK A NAIL* WHEN I SAVE THE *UNIVERSE* --

BLEARFF

YOW!

-SIGH- ENCLOSE.

HEY... WHO TURNED ON THE *NIGHT?*

THIS IS A *PORTABLE TRANSDIMENSIONAL BUBBLE,* WILSON.

HERE WE CAN SPEAK *FREELY,* AND I CAN PROJECT ACCOMPANYING *VISUALS* —

I TAKE IT I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT *THIS* IS THE *ALIEN BEING* —

— THE *MESSIAH* (FOR LACK OF A *SECULAR* TERM) THAT WILL BRING *ENLIGHTENMENT* AND *PEACE* TO THE WORLD.

YEAH, SURE. AND *I'M* THE *MITHRAS,* WHO RISES OUT OF THE *GREAT PUMPKIN PATCH* AND HELPS HIM BRING *CANDY* TO ALL THE GOOD KIDDIES --

VISUAL AIDS?! HEY, ARE YOU GOING TO GET *FRESH* WITH ME? 'CAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE IN MIXING *BUSINESS* WITH —

OH, WHO AM I *KIDDING*... JUST LET ME GET *GUM* AND I'M *YOURS.*

CORRECT... ON *ONE CONDITION...*

YOU STOP *THIS GUY* FROM STOPPING *YOU.*

HOLY FIN FANG FOOM.

WE'RE CALLING IT...

TIAMAT

HEH HEH... MY, YOU'RE BIG... OH BOY... *TIAMAT,* HUH?

"YES. NAMED FOR THE BABYLONIAN *CHAOS DRAGON* WHO'S DEDICATED TO THE *DESTRUCTION* OF *ORDER.*

"...WE JUST KNOW THAT IF THE *TWO OF YOU* DON'T MEET, HE *WILL* DESTROY THE ALIEN...AND WITH IT, THE *FUTURE.*"

SO WHAT DOES MONTY THE *PRUNE BOY* THINK I'M SUPPOSED TO *DO* WITH *HIM?*

"MONTY *PROPHESIED* HIM ALMOST *IMMEDIATELY* AFTER SEEING THE MESSIAH... WE DON'T KNOW *WHERE* HE'S FROM, *WHAT* HE WILL DO...

ASIDE FROM SCORE HIM A *BIG* MODELING FOR *"DEATH THREATS?"*

THAT'S *OBVIOUS...* WHAT YOU DO *BEST,* OF COURSE...

...AND THAT WOULD *BE..?*

YOU'RE TO *KILL HIM.*

WHAT DID YOU THINK THE JOB WAS?

...

NOTHING... I DIDN'T THINK *NOTHING.*

MAIM, KILL, *DISEMBOWEL.* YAY TEAM.

I...UM... WELL...

WHAT I DO BEST... I GOT YOU...

IT'S JUST THAT... YOU'VE BEEN TALKING FOR *MONTHS* ABOUT A NEW WORLD, A BEAUTIFUL *FUTURE* THAT I FORGE... I GUESS I JUST THOUGHT...

DO YOU HAVE A *PROBLEM* WITH —

HUH? NAH, COURSE NOT... I'M [redacted] TO THE *BLOODY MAYHEM*... *YOU* KNOW THAT...

GO GET YOUR CALL.

NOAH AGAIN. I TOLD HIM *NOT* TO BOTHER US --

YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Z. ASK DEADPOOL ABOUT MONTY CARLO. TELL NO ONE. N.

WHAT THE --? *DEADPOOL*, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT *MONTY* --

-- CARLO? *DEADPOOL?*

HHHHHH

WHAT DID YOU *EXPECT?* YOU WERE GONNA PUT THE BUGGER IN THE *BASKET* OF YOUR *MONGOOSE* AND RIDE HIM PAST THE *MOON?!*

GOLDEN GATE PARK, [redacted] FRANCISCO.

THIS ISN'T THAT *SNAPPY "E.T."* FLICK, WADE... IT'S *REAL LIFE.*

IT'S NOT *LIKE* THAT, AL... IT'S --

FORGET IT. FORGET I SAID ANYTHING.

IT'S ALL GOOD. REALLY...

WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL, AN' THEY GAVE ME AN APTITUDE TEST, YOU KNOW WHAT CAME UP?

DENTIST, TALK SHOW HOST, MERCENARY KILLER. BUSTING HEADS IS IN MY BLOOD.

OH, SO THOSE INFLECTIONS OF SELF-PITY IN YOUR VOICE ARE JUST FOR MY BENEFIT?

BZZT

SPILL IT.

I DON'T KNOW... I GUESS IT JUST CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD... ALL THE HYPE ABOUT MY BEING GOOD... POLISHING MY HALO...

ALL SORTS OF GOOD JUNK THAT I'M DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR —

BUT NO ONE EVER SAID MY GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO MANKIND WOULD BE AS A MURDERER.

BZZT

I THOUGHT THAT I'D DO SOMETHING... INSPIRATIONAL. YOU KNOW... BONA-FIDE HEROIC.

INSTEAD... THIS IS LIKE A NIGHTMARE COME TRUE.

HOW'S THAT? JANET RENO INVITED YOU TO WASHINGTON FOR A HOT TUB RENDEZVOUS?

SIGH

DESTINY HAS FINGERED ME AS THE GUY YOU CALL TO SPILL BLOOD.

OH...

BZZT

WADE WILSON... MONSTER AT LARGE. THAT'S IT.

OH?

HEY, DON'T GIVE ME YOUR SOB STORY AND THEN *EXPECT* ME TO GO ALL *MARY POPPINS* ON YOU AND MAKE THINGS *BETTER* —

YOU'RE TALKING TO THE WOMAN YOU KEPT IN A *CLOSET* FOR YEARS AS A *PRISONER*... *REMEMBER?*

YOU *ARE* A MONSTER, *SOMETIMES*... BUT NOW YOU'RE A MONSTER WITH A *GOOD JOB*... ISN'T THAT *BETTER?*

...

YOU *STINK* AT THE BENCH CHAT... YOU *KNOW* THAT?

TOUGH. YOU DON'T LIKE IT, FIND THAT FAT, HOMELESS SLOB YOU ALWAYS HANG OUT WITH.

OH, *GERRY*... WHERE ARE YOU WHEN I *NEED* YOU?

MANHATTAN... THE ALWAYS INTRIGUING *GREENWICH VILLAGE*...

THE *SILVER SURFER.*

NOPE. TOO *WEEPY.*

THE *AVENGERS.*

NOPE. THEY'LL BE TOO BUSY PICKING *NEW MEMBERS* WHEN PUBLIC INTEREST WANES...

DAIMON *HELLSTROM?* FOR PITY'S SAKE... THE *LIGHTNING RODS?*

NOPE.

STRANGE the GREAT

QUASAR? CAPTAIN MARVEL? THE WATCHER?

TOO *BUSY, DEAD, PASSIVE.* NOPE NOPE NOPE.

BY THE *HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH,* THERE MUST BE *SOMEONE* ELSE! ANYONE OTHER THAN *HIM!*

STEPHEN, PLEASE...

...YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT SOMETIMES *DESTINY* JUST POINTS HIS FINGER AND *CHOOSES* SOMEONE...HE'S VERY *STUBBORN* THAT WAY --

BUT *DEADPOOL?! GERRY*, THE MAN IS A LIVING *MAELSTROM* OF *NEGATIVE ENERGY!*

SMASH

HOW CAN THE FUTURE OF *HUMANITY* BE ENTRUSTED TO *HIS CARE?!*

WHAT IF YOU'RE *WRONG*, MY FRIEND?

IF I AM...

...WELL...THAT WOULD BE *US* GETTING STUCK *ROYALLY*, NOW *WOULDN'T* IT?

TOTALLY.

L&L...THE BASEMENT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MY *ACCESS* HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY *RESTRICTED?!* DO YOU KNOW WHO I *AM?!*

OF *COURSE*, MA'AM, BUT THE *PRECOG* YOU'RE REQUESTING TO SEE IS TEMPORARILY *OUT OF SERVICE.* *DIXON* —

GRUNT, IF YOU SAY *"DIXON'S ORDERS"* INSTEAD OF MOVING ASIDE WITH A *SMILE*... YOU'RE GOING TO GET *EXPEDITED.*

DIXON'S ORD--

WHAP WHAP

MONTGOMERY!

Ms. CULLODEN! WHY, IT'S BEEN *AGES* SINCE A MEMBER OF *UPPER* MANAGEMENT HAS COME *SLUMMING* TO FLESHWERKS!

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US A *HUG!*

WHAT'S GOING *ON* HERE, MONTY -- ARE YOU *SICK?*

WELL, THE COUPLING TO MY [redacted] IS *ITCHING* SOMETHING FIERCE... BUT I WOULDN'T CALL THE *NURSE* OVER IT.

HOW'D IT GO WITH *DEADPOOL* --?

FINE -- *WHY* ARE YOU ON *RESTRICTED ACCESS?*

YOU DON'T *SOUND* FINE... HE *DIDN'T* CARE FOR THE *BATTLE SUIT, DID* HE?

-SIGH- IT'S SUCH A *CHORE* BEING *RIGHT* ALL THE TIME --

MONTY!

WHY ARE YOU ON *RESTRICTED ACCESS?*

AM I? I... I HAD NO *IDEA.* NEWS FILTERS TO US *SLOWLY* DOWN HERE --

ZOE?! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO --

YOU *ARE,* BY *DIXON'S* AUTHORITY. I HAD TO POUND TWO OF OUR OWN MEN TO GET IN HERE --

AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT *MONTE CARLO* I'M SUPPOSED TO ASK YOU?

MON- MONTE C-C- CARLO?

IT'S GOING TO *RAIN* THERE... AND --

-- AND T-*TAXES* WILL RISE... AND... PRINCE RAINER --

-- COLD... MY... MY MIND IS COLD, ZOE... I --

FISH DRINK?

OH MY GOD... MONTY?

WHAT HAS *DIXON* DONE TO YOU?

MOMENTS LATER... AFTER TWO MORE "EXPEDITIONS"...

DIXON!

IT'S ONE THING WHEN YOU HARASS *DEADPOOL*... OR *NOAH*, OR *ME* --

-- BUT YOU CROSSED THE LINE WITH *MONTY!* DID YOU PULL A *MIND WIPE* ON HIM?!

ANSWER ME, YOU SON OF A --?!

WE'RE GOING TO *SETTLE* THIS -- THE *HARD* WAY. LET'S SEE WHERE THE *COMPUTER* CAN FIND YOU --

WHAT'S THIS?

GONE... OH *NO*, YOU DON'T...

...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUST *WEASEL* OUT OF YOUR OFFICE AND *HIDE* UNTIL I COOL DOWN... NOT *THIS* TIME.

SECOND STRING INTERVIEW A SUCCESS... CONTACTED PROMISING CANDIDATE FOR MITHRAS DIRECTIVE

DIXON... WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE?*

SAN FRANCISCO... HOME SWEET HOME.

ABBOO, DABOOP PEEKEY BOO BOO, RAPATAPPA FWOWER...

-SQUEAL- FWOWAA!

≥HIK≤ YOU DON'T KNOW HOW *GOOD* YOU ≥HIK≤ GOT IT, *TABBYTUBBIE!* SHPEND ALL DAY *FROLICIN'* AN' *PRANCIN'* —

YOU TRY *SHAVIN'* THE *WORLD* FER A LIVIN... NOW *DAT'SH* A PAPPI DAPPI DOO DOO!

ABBA DABBA NU NU —?

NEED A BIG OL' *RAZOR* TO *SHAVE* D'WORLD... AN' YER *LOOKIN'* AT HIM! *ME!* MISHTER *MITHRASH!* I AM A *WORLD SHAVER...*

AND WITHOUT A *WUSSY ALOE STRIP!* A RUSHTY *STRAIGHT* RAZOR FER CUTTIN *THROATS* ON UGLY-WUGGLY *ALIENSH!*

NU NU BAA!

WORD! ≥URP≤ *TAKES* A *MONSHTER* T' *WHACK* A MONSHTER. NOT TALKIN' NO *GROVER,* EITHER —

BEEDEE?

SHUT UP! I *GOT* TO! I DON'T HAVE NO *CHOICE!*

IT'S MY *DESHTINY!* DESHTINY! HAND-PICKED FROM THE *NOSE* OF LIFE, CAUSHE I KILL *BETTER* THAN EVERYONE!

I *KNOW* I DON'T *WANNA,* BUT HOW CAN YOU SAY *NO* TO THAT? HUH? *TELL ME!*

FSASHH

WILSON!

DEADPOOL! I KNOW YOU'RE IN HERE! IT'S *ZOE* —

WE NEED YOUR *HELP!* EVERYTHING'S GONE WRONG! DIXON'S GONE *MAD!*

UH... I GOTTA *GO,* TUBBIES... *TROUBLE* JUSHT TELEPORTED INTA MY HOUSHE...

SOMEONE'S GOTTA GET *WHACKED.*

GOO GOO BA.

ANY *SIGN* OF THEM?

NO, SIR... ZOE USED A *SECURE GATE* TO TELEPORT. WE *CAN'T* TRACE HER --

DIXON, *SIR*... SHE HAS *MONTY* WITH HER.

OF *COURSE* SHE DOES... OF COURSE.

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO BE THE *BOSS*, NOAH? THE *TOP MAN?*

TO HAVE THE POWER TO *JUGGLE LIVES* AT YOUR WHIM... TO MUCK AROUND IN THE *SANDBOX*... TO PLAY *GOD?*

TO TELL YOU THE *TRUTH*, SIR, I *USED* TO THINK THAT I DID...

...BUT NOW, *NO*... I JUST WANT TO DO WHAT'S *RIGHT*.

"RIGHT..." HAH...

...THE PRIVILEGE OF THE *WORKING MAN*... *INTEGRITY*.

NONE FOR *ME*, THANKS... I'M TOO BUSY *DRIVING* THE *SHIP*.

NOAH... I NEED TO KNOW... ARE YOU STILL *LOYAL* TO THE *DIRECTIVE?* TO OUR *CAUSE?*

OF -- OF *COURSE*, SIR.

TO *ME?*

...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'D *ASK* ME THAT.

I NEED SOMEONE I CAN *TRUST* RIGHT NOW... *PARTICULARLY* NOW.

A SPECIAL DETAIL HAS COME UP.

UNTIL I DISCOVER WHY *CULLODEN* HAS *ABSCONDED* WITH MONTY... WHAT HER *MENTAL* STATE IS... WHETHER OR NOT SHE'S GONE *TURN-COAT* —

ZOE WOULD *NEVER* —

UNTIL *TEN MINUTES* AGO, I WOULD HAVE SAID THE SAME THING... BUT THE *FOUR GUARDS* IN THE *INFIRMARY* HAVE PERSUADED ME *DIFFERENTLY*...

I *CANNOT* TRUST HER WITH THIS...

THIS IS THE *S.E.T.I. RADIO TELESCOPE* IN *ARICEBO, PUERTO RICO.*

THE *BLIND SPOT UNIT* DISPATCHED TO THIS LOCATION HASN'T REPORTED IN, AND THEIR JAMMING DEVICES ARE *NOT* YET ON-LINE.

THE SITUATION NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED *IMMEDIATELY.*

WHY THE *RUSH*, SIR? THEY'VE ONLY BEEN GONE FOR A FEW *HOURS* --?

BECAUSE I SAID — BECAUSE IT'S *IMPORTANT*, SON...

CAN I *COUNT* ON YOU, NOAH?

OF COURSE, SIR. I'LL LEAVE IN TEN MINUTES.

AND SIR... FOR WHAT IT'S *WORTH*...

I *STILL* BELIEVE IN OUR TEAM... *ESPECIALLY* OUR *LEADER*. GOODBYE, SIR.

AND *THAT*, NOAH... IS WHY YOU *LOSE*.

GOD *FORGIVE* ME.

TO BE CONTINUED

DEADLINES

Dear *Deadlines*,

I'm writing to say what a great job you guys did on the DEADPOOL / DEATH '98 annual. It was a good story, great art, and the greatest DEADPOOL I have seen so far. The way that we see Wade before he became a psychotic killer, and then after the first treatment how he was pushed over the edge and into insanity. All 'round, a great book. I hope there is more of Deadpool's past to uncover.

Another thing: in issue #15, there was a remark about Australians sounding like New Zealanders. That's *(Editor's note: several words removed due to un-niceness)*! I'm Australian; I should know! Also, I have a few questions, so here goes.

Will we see how Deadpool met Al? Or Weasel? In issue #6, what was Al referring to when she was talking to God, and mentioned a "Vatican incident"?

That's all I have for now, so until Wade marries Siryn and has an affair with Al, make mine Marvel!

Chris Quick
Victoria, Australia

Okay... eewww?! Deadpool and Al? That's just... gross, Chris. Gross. Other than that, thanks for writing in! Don't worry, there's plenty o' stuff to learn regarding the 'Poolman's past, including his history with both Al and Weasel. Get ready for '99, cuz that's gonna be the year of revelations for DEADPOOL, and we're gonna find out plenty of stuff, including (at least in part)... Blind Alfred's history! Psyched? We are. We probably won't reveal the story behind the Vatican incident, though. We're under strict orders from a... higher power, per se... to keep that little tidbit of info under our hats.

And don't get so upset about the New Zealand crack. New Zealand has produced some cool things, like Lucy Lawless! Battle on!

Deadlines,

Just wanted to drop a line and give the creative team over at DEADPOOL its due respect. Joe Kelly is hysterical and Walter McDaniel does excellent work with the pencils. I've been reading Marvel comics for twenty years, and DEADPOOL is my favorite since those old POWER MAN/IRON FIST books.

I particularly liked Bullseye's appearance a few months back. The fact that anyone could be "friends" with Bullseye is amazing, and I think it just gives 'Pool more mystique. How about having Captain America make an appearance? Geez, would Wade get under Captain America's uptight-goody-two-shoes skin or what? Keep up the good work.

Christian Domis
Columbus, OH

Thanks, Christian! We appreciate the kind words! Everyone seemed to enjoy the Bullseye appearance, so maybe we'll have him show up again. Don't count on it anytime soon, though. We've got way too much stuff comin' up already. And as for Cap showing up: that would be quite a match-up. We're pretty sure the Wadester would annoy the stripes offa Star-Spangled Boy.

Dear *Deadlines*,

Man, what's the deal with Ajax? I just read issue #18, and this guy just doesn't give up. Now that Deadpool finally realizes who Ajax really is, there's a chance that he might have some trouble dealing with him. I mean, the guy tortured him! But, then again, Killebrew was part of that, too, and Wade was able to get past the mental anguish and deal with him accordingly. Okay, now that I think about it, I'm not worried. Deadpool will be able to kick Ajax's butt.

What's the deal with Ilaney? Is she going to be a recurring character? I like her ability to stand up to Deadpool (that crack over the head was pretty gutsy), but I don't know how much I'd like to see her every month. She's a nice addition in Alfred's absence, but once Deadpool gets back to the 'States and Al's back in the story, Ilaney would be kind of redundant, in my humble opinion.

Other than that, I really liked the tie-in between the annual and the regular monthly. That's a nice trend the annuals seem to be following lately. I hope the trend continues.

Okay, that's that. I really enjoy all things Deadpool, so keep them coming! I was really excited to hear about "Deadpool Month." Is that really true? Lots of Deadpool stuff all in one month? If it is, awesome! Thanks for listening, and make mine DEADPOOL!

Marcus Freeman
(E-mail address withheld by request)

Thanks for the input, Marcus! Yep, it's true! October is DEADPOOL Month! We've got tons of Deadpool stuff coming up, including the DEADPOOL TEAM-UP STARRING DEADPOOL AND WIDDLE WADE one-shot, BABY'S FIRST DEADPOOL, ENCYCLOPEDIA DEADPOOLICA and our double-sized 23rd issue which kicks off the totally unpredictable "Dead Reckoning" story! Woo-hoo!

Keep your eyes open, guys and gals, 'cause we've got some cool stuff a'comin'!

PAUL TUTRONE
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NEXT ISSUE:

ONLY TWO MONTHS UNTIL "DEAD RECKONING," GANG, AND DIXON'S ABOUT TO SHOW US JUST HOW RUTHLESS HE CAN BE! UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S GONNA BE AT THE EXPENSE OF ONE OF HIS OWN PEOPLE, AS HE OR SHE PUTS THE "DEAD" INTO OUR STORY ARC'S TITLE! CAN THIS JOKER REALLY BE TRUSTED? COME ON BACK HERE IN THIRTY TO FIND OUT!